

Be with One Another

Discussion Guide

Week of July 16 - **“Do Not Judge One Another”**

Scripture verse: Matthew 7:1-6 and Romans 14:1-13

LOOKING BACK:

1. Looking over the last week, were you able to submit to the other Christians in your life?
2. Have three or four people share their submission experience. What did God teach you through this act?
3. If you found it challenging “submitting to one another” take a few moments to ask God to show you where you might need to humble yourself to follow this instruction from Jesus.

OPENING QUESTION: Think of a time when you’ve been judged harshly whether you deserved it or not. How did it make you feel?

LOOKING UP:

1. Romans 14 deals with Jewish food laws that caused people to judge those who followed certain practices. The Apostle Paul says these things don’t define who’s in or out of Jesus’ family. These were non-essential cultural practices/issues and believers needed to respect people’s differences instead of judging them as in or out of God’s family.
2. With this in mind, choose someone to read Romans 14:1-13 and someone else to read last week’s passage—Ephesians 5:15-21. What do these verses have in common when it comes to

living/bearing/submitting/serving one another? (Allow the group to talk about their answer... then... reveal the answer... Ephesians 5:21"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.")

3. Now spend time reading Matthew 7:1-7 and follow the questions below.

<p>READ THE PASSAGE Matthew 7:1-6</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What stood out to you most? 2. What was challenging or hard to understand? 3. What does this teach us about God? 4. What does this teach us about people? 	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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The Matthew passage has a quid pro quo (this for that) in that Jesus is telling us if we judge we can expect the same in return. Does having this cause/effect in mind help you when you feel compelled to judge someone? How so?

LOOKING FORWARD:

1. Who might we be judging, even in an unspoken way? Do you tend to judge certain types of people more than others?
2. In what ways will continuing this judgement harm us in our daily walk with Jesus? How does it reflect Jesus to the non-believing world?
3. Even the secular world believes judging others is bad because it causes us to place ourselves in a position of false superiority. Break into groups of 3-4 and brainstorm ways to stop ourselves from passing judgement. Ask the members of the smaller groups to hold each other accountable this week should they find themselves falling into the trap of judging someone. Suggest they contact each other when it happens so they can pray for each other and

encourage one another to “make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.” (Romans 14:19)

4. Close in prayer, thanking God for forgiving us and sending Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice versus judging and condemning us! He gave us what we didn't deserve!